

**Kentucky Arts Council Board Meeting
September 19, 2008
Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY**

Members Present: Todd Lowe, Sonya Baker, Wilma Brown, Zev Buffman, Paul Fourshee, Ron Johnson, Ed Lane, Everett McCorvey, Gail Russell, Retha Tarter, Randall Vaughn

Members Absent: Jean Dorton, Dean Jones, Kelly Knight, Ann Schell, Jim Voyles

Others Present: Staff: Lori Meadows, Suzanne Gray, Melissa Nesselrode, Maraskeshia Smith

Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet: Lindy Casebier, Deputy Secretary

Guests: Gerri Combs, Executive Director, Southern Arts Federation; Leslie Watkins, Senior Director of Development, Potter College of Arts & Letters; David Cupps, Director, Arts Kentucky; Carrie Bureck, Amanda Clark, David Marquez, Western Kentucky University; Joan Wieff, Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra; Nadine Wilkerson, Scottsville Art Guild

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Chairman Lowe welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for making the drive to Bowling Green. Chairman Lowe also thanked Western Kentucky University (WKU) for the use of the facility for the board meeting and Community Reception.

Chairman Lowe opened the meeting with an introduction to Dr. David Lee, Dean of Potter College at WKU. Dr. Lee thanked the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) for coming and discussed the large impact that the KAC has had on WKU and the community of Bowling Green. He informed the board that the arts play a large role at WKU; there is extremely high interest in the arts by students, and the school has approximately 700 undergraduates majoring in the arts. Dr. Lee also informed the board that the college is currently working on a \$20 million renovation to upgrade facilities and to add outdoor sculpture to the grounds. Dr. Lee stated that the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its 100th Season, and is the longest running orchestra in Kentucky.

Chairman Lowe thanked Dr. Lee for attending the meeting and hosting the Kentucky Arts Council. Chairman Lowe also thanked Leslie Watkins for her help with the arrangements for the meeting.

QUORUM: With 11 of the 16 members in attendance, Chairman Lowe declared a quorum to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Lowe asked the board members to review the board minutes from the June board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Everett McCorvey, seconded by Ron Johnson. The motion was passed without objection.

COMMENTS BY BOARD CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Lowe welcomed Southern Arts Federation (SAF) Executive Director Gerri Combs and noted that Ms. Combs would be giving a presentation about the SAF later in the meeting.

Chairman Lowe informed the board that the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) meeting in Chattanooga went very well; the Governor of Tennessee opened the assembly, and Tennessean Dolly Parton was presented with the National Medal of Arts for her reading program “*The Imagination Library*” which has distributed over six million books to children in need. Tom Birch, Legislative Agent for NASAA also spoke to state arts agency board members and executive directors about presidential candidates’ arts platforms.

Chairman Lowe informed the board that Jean Dorton has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee and she will be in touch with members soon asking them to serve on the committee. Wilma Brown has agreed to chair the Poet Laureate Nominating Committee; there will be discussion regarding a possible policy change for the Poet Laureate Nominating Committee later in the agenda.

REPORT BY TOURSIM, ARTS & HERITAGE CABINET:

Chairman Lowe asked Deputy Secretary Lindy Casebier to give a Cabinet update. Lindy asked everyone to look at the Ryder Cup brochure and photographs included in their packets to see the artwork that the Kentucky Arts Council made available for the Cabinet’s VIP chalet; this is a prelude of what to expect for the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

Lindy encouraged the board members to attend the upcoming Governor’s Awards in the Arts program and informed them that the luncheon will be held in the Governor’s Mansion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Members were asked to review their abstentions and note if there were any additions or deletions.

Executive Director Lori Meadows gave an overview of the following grants presented for approval:

Grants:

Individual Artist Professional Development Grants

Organizational Technical Assistance Grants

Dance On Tour Grants

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Retha Tarter, seconded by Wilma Brown. The motion passed without objection.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Chairman Lowe apologized to the newly appointed board members that he was unable to be at the June board meeting to discuss the Governance Process with them.

Chairman Lowe noted that he asked other state arts agency board chairmen at the NASAA conference whether they use the Governance Process, and most do not. Chairman Lowe stated that Lori spends a great deal of time preparing the Monitoring Reports and requested that the board make comments and give feedback on each of the reports so Lori will know if the board feels that the agency is heading in the right direction.

Lori reported on the following Monitoring Reports:

1.0 Global Ends Statement: The Mission of the Kentucky Arts Council is to Create Opportunities for the People of Kentucky to Value, Participate in, and Benefit from the Arts. *(No comments by board)*

1.1 End Statement: Kentuckians Value the Role of Arts in Society *(No comments by board)*

1.2 End Statement: Lifelong Education in the Arts is Encouraged:

Retha Tarter informed the board that she attended the KAC Community Scholars workshop in Dawson Springs. Mayor Ross Workman was among the attendees and they were very excited about the KAC offering the program in their community.

Chairman Lowe commented on the artist training that took place at the University of Kentucky this year, and asked the board for their thoughts on the change making the Arts Education Roster open only to Kentucky artists. Everett responded that in light of our budget cuts keeping the training focused on Kentucky artists was a good idea. Chairman Lowe informed the board that he has spoken with one of the roster artists that attended and they felt the training went very well.

Wilma Brown informed the board that the National Endowment for the Arts, mandated Poetry Out Loud competition is a great tool for connecting students with the KAC. She remarked that the student competitors are quite good, and becoming more polished each year.

Paul Fourshee asked if the KAC requires background checks on the roster artists. Lori informed the board that the KAC requires it as part of their application and the cost for the background check is \$25.00. Paul asked if arts organizations also request background checks on their artists that work with children. Lori responded that she is not sure whether the organizations require this, but will look into this for the board.

1.3 End: Statewide Delivery of Arts Programs and Services is Provided

Retha asked if the KAC does accessibility training. Lori informed the board that the KAC has a partnership with the Kentucky Center for the Arts through which special accessibility workshops are presented by the Center's Director of Access Services Martha Newman.

1.4 End: Artists Live and Work in a Supportive Environment *(No comments by board)*

1.5 End: Public Policy Supports the Arts in Kentucky *(No comments by board)*

Chairman Lowe asked if there were any further comments. Zev Buffman commented that in reference to the KAC mission statement he would like for the board to discuss expanding how the KAC can reach every age group at the next board meeting.

A motion to approve the Monitoring Reports was made by Randall Vaughn, seconded by Zev Buffman. The motion passed without objection.

Chairman Lowe requested that Leslie Watkins introduce the entertainment portion of the meeting. Leslie introduced Dr. Paul Hondorp and the *Treble Makers*, a student-run, directed and funded group. The *Treble Makers* performed two songs. Chairman Lowe thanked Leslie, Dr. Hondorp and the *Treble Makers* for coming.

Chairman Lowe asked Lori to update the board on the agency strategic plan. Lori noted that members had two handouts in their packets on the process and the topic areas which resulted from the public input meetings, and presented an overview of these documents.

Chairman Lowe asked Lori if there have been many discussions at the public input meetings with those that are not involved with the arts. Lori informed the board that the meetings were largely attended by members of the arts community, with some exceptions.

Chairman Lowe asked the board if they were comfortable with the progress the staff has made so far:

Everett asked if there would be an opportunity to have a strategic planning meeting with legislators. Lori stated that some legislators have attended the input meetings in their areas but it is a good idea to get as much input from them as possible and staff would seek other methods of gathering legislative input. Everett would also like the KAC to look into partnering more with the Department of Education because of our educational programs.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS:

Chairman Lowe asked David Cupps, Director of Arts Kentucky, to update the board on advocacy. David informed the board that Arts Kentucky is currently working to empower the citizens of the state by giving them as many resources as possible via the Arts Kentucky Web site so constituents can understand the role of arts in society and the role of arts in their local communities. David asked that those not currently on the Arts Kentucky e-mail distribution list see him today and he will add them to the list. Chairman Lowe thanked David for coming to Bowling Green and for his work on advocacy.

Chairman Lowe discussed the possibility of contacting former board members and asking them to be advocates for the arts and requested David Cupps' help with that.

Chairman Lowe asked the board to discuss their "Advocacy Best Practices" since the last board meeting:

Chairman Lowe would like for the board to visit the NEA.gov site, and go to the Chairman's Forum link and watch NASAA CEO Jonathan Katz' interview with National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia. The interview discusses the major challenges facing public funding for the arts at the beginning of the 21st century. Gioia explained the special responsibilities of public agencies and arts organizations and how they can help to broaden nationwide participation in the arts. Chairman Lowe would also like to show the interview at the December board meeting so everyone will have the opportunity to see it a second time. Everett mentioned that he learned that Tennessee has a state appropriation of eight million dollars for the arts. Gerri Combs mentioned that some of the funding comes from a percentage of their state license plates.

Randall Vaughn informed the board that Lexington is currently revitalizing some areas and one of the criteria is to incorporate public art.

Ed Lane informed the board that Lexington is also hoping to create an arts and entertainment area in the downtown area.

Chairman Lowe requested that the board look at the proposed changes for policy 4.9, changing the structure of the Poet Laureate Nominating Committee.

A motion to accept the policy change was made by Ed Lane, seconded by Randall Vaughn. The motion passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Lori gave an overview of the following:

Current agency initiatives and projects:

The KAC has published *Kentucky Quilt Trails Views & Voices*, *Abraham Lincoln of Kentucky*, and *Five Kentucky Poets Laureate: an Anthology*. A supporting Web site for the Quilt Trails book is available on the KAC Web site. Lori

commented that Sandie Lawrence has done a wonderful job on the Web site and encouraged the board to visit it.

The KAC has been working on several special initiatives including cultural district projects, Lincoln projects and assisting with the Ryder Cup.

Upcoming Events:

Governor's Awards in the Arts ceremony and luncheon on October 1, 2008 in Frankfort

KAC is presenting a series of public workshops across the state during the fall.

The staff is preparing for Kentucky Crafted: The Market 2009. Lori informed the board that there may be fewer artists who are able to participate this year because of the economy, therefore, the KAC did not raise regular booth fees even though the agency's costs have gone up. Instead, the premium for a corner booth has been raised from \$25.00 to \$75.00 to help offset some of the costs. Nationally known garden designer Jon Carloftis will be creating garden designs using Kentucky crafted artwork throughout the Market, and will give a presentation on using artwork in the garden on Saturday morning of the Market. Lori asked the board to please help promote the Market.

The KAC continues to work with budget reductions, which have reduced the overall budget by \$600,000 from last year. The board may notice this in fewer mailings, less color printing, and less staff travel among other things.

Staff Update:

The KAC has hired Craig Kittner as Arts Marketing Program Director, and he will begin on October 1, 2008.

The Arts in Education position is still vacant and the KAC is currently working on filling this position.

Ed Lawrence received the Excellence Award from the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators for his work on the KAC FY2007 Annual Report.

DISCUSSION ON ENDS:

Chairman Lowe introduced Gerri Combs, Executive Director of regional arts organization Southern Arts Federation. Gerri presented a video which gave an overview of regional arts organizations, and discussed the work of the organization. She also presented information about the programs offered by SAF, and the ways in which the SAF and KAC partner. Gerri informed the board that SAF works with a total of nine states, which are all very diverse. Chairman Lowe is the chairman of SAF and there are 26 board members and 13 staff. The organization has a three million dollar budget. Gerri also gave an overview of the programs offered by SAF.

Gerri told the board how important they are to the Kentucky Arts Council, and noted that she is proud of the job Lori has done in the three years since she has held the position. She added that Lori and the KAC are very well respected by other state arts agencies. Chairman Lowe thanked Gerri for coming and her efforts working with the KAC and encouraged the board to inform their constituents of opportunities available from the SAF.

BOARD SCHEDULE:

Retha invited the board to meet in Madisonville for the March 7th board meeting. The Glema Mahr Center for the Arts would like to host the meeting. Chairman Lowe thanked Retha for the invitation and the board will plan on meeting in Madisonville on March 7, 2009.

Chairman Lowe reminded the board that the next board meeting will be December 12th, 2008, in Louisville.

At Chairman Lowe's request, Everett led the board meeting evaluation discussion. The following comments were made:

Paul appreciated the information presented by Gerri. He felt it was good to hear how other states are handling the same problems Kentucky is having with funding issues.

Everett talked about the importance of SAF to him personally, when he began with the Alabama Arts Council as a performing artist. He was able to go to SAF for information/workshops for marketing which helped him tremendously.

Retha and Randall commented on how much they enjoyed the *Treble Makers'* performance.

Chairman Lowe thanked everyone for driving to Bowling Green.

Adjournment